

**Testimony of Commissioner James Redeker**  
**Appropriations Committee**  
**Fiscal Year 2018 – Fiscal Year 2019 Operating Budget**  
**February 22, 2017 10:00 a.m.**  
**Legislative Office Building, Hearing Room 2C**

Good morning Chairwoman Walker, Chairwoman Osten, Chairman Formica, and members of the Committee. I am James Redeker, Commissioner of the Department of Transportation. I am pleased to appear before you today to discuss Governor Dannel P. Malloy's recommended biennial operating budget for the Department of Transportation.

Governor Malloy's budget for the upcoming biennium continues to recognize the integral role transportation plays not only in the daily lives of our citizens, but also in the long-term economic viability of the state. The proposed funding will enable the Department to continue to provide the citizens of Connecticut with a safe, efficient, integrated, and multimodal transportation network while also advancing work associated with the Let's Go CT – Ramp Up initiative.

The Governor has recommended Special Transportation Fund appropriations of \$626.2 million for fiscal year 2018, and \$663.4 million for fiscal year 2019. The details of the proposed budget are outlined below.

The Governor's proposed Personal Services budget of \$179.4 million in fiscal year 2018 and \$179.6 million in fiscal year 2019 provides funding for Department employees that plan, design, maintain, and provide support for a safe highway and bridge and public transportation system. The proposed authorized count of 3,444 includes 92 new positions over the biennium including:

- Eighty-six additional positions to provide additional assistance in the implementation of the Let's Go CT Ramp-Up initiative.
- Eight positions to allow for the shifting of work related to Pavement Preservation, ADA Ramp program and Roadside Safety Features.
- Ten positions to support additional in-house bridge inspection efforts.
- A reduction of Twelve Rest Area Attendant positions due to closures.

The Governor's proposed Other Expenses appropriation is \$54.8 million in both fiscal year 2018 and 2019. The majority of the increase is related to the cost of road salt. It is important to note that over 90 percent of the Department's Other Expenses account is dedicated to safety-related fixed costs including snow removal materials and contractual services, fleet repairs and fuel for the Department's fleet of trucks, loaders, and other heavy equipment, highway and electrical items (such as guide rail, posts, concrete barriers and lights), highway illumination, and the costs for operating more than 100 Department facilities.

Maintaining existing rail and transit services is at the core of the Department's mission. These programs serve the mobility needs of over 80 million passengers annually. These services, along with the ADA Paratransit Program, represent approximately 60 percent of the

Department's operating budget. The Department will continue to work with service operators to ensure expenditures remain within the recommended appropriation. The Governor is proposing \$158.3 million in fiscal year 2018 and \$170.4 million in fiscal year 2019 for the Bus Appropriation, \$173.3 million in fiscal year 2018 and \$198.2 million in fiscal year 2019 for the Rail Appropriation, as well as \$38.0 million in fiscal year 2018 and 2019 for the ADA Para-Transit Program Appropriation.

The Governor has also recommended a Transportation Capital Program of \$818.7 million in fiscal year 2018 and \$820.2 million in fiscal year 2019. The proposed Capital Program prioritizes critical state-of-good repair needs and provides funds for vital infrastructure improvements in the biennium, including:

- \$309.9 million in the "Fix-it First" road and bridge programs that will address reconstruction, repair, or replacement of bridges and roads in need of immediate attention.
- \$66 million in the State Bridge Restoration program.
- \$26 million in the "Interstate" program, that provides for the maintenance and replacement of the state's portion of the nationwide system of highways.
- \$88 million in the "Intrastate" program that will fund maintenance and replacement to the state's primary and secondary roads.
- \$150 million in the "Resurfacing" program for ongoing restoration of the state's highways.
- \$462 million for Bus and Rail facilities and equipment that will provide funding for capital projects necessary to support the states railroads, and Transit operations in eight urban areas and local transit districts.
- \$30.9 million for Urban Systems.
- \$32.6 million for environmental compliance and hazardous waste abatement.
- \$107.3 million for renovation and repair to Department's garages and other facilities.

The Governor's recommended Capital Program also continues an emphasis on municipal aid, with bond authorizations of \$10 million for the Local Bridge Program, \$126 million for Local Transportation improvements, and \$60 million annually for the Town Aid Road grant program.

I look forward to working with you in implementing a biennial budget that allows for continued preservation and improvement of the state's transportation network, and enables us to deliver the transportation system that the citizens of Connecticut deserve.

I will gladly respond to any of your questions.